

# LadyLike

#28

\$10

A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers with Class

**Lips - The hottest  
new TG club in NYC**

**Profile Girl  
Deb MacKinnon**

**Interview with  
Pudgy Roberts**

**TVideo Reviews**

**Mirror-Mirror**

**Lydia's Pride**

**And more...**



# Editorial

## Letters. We Get Letters...

...and almost every one includes at least one photo. Our readers are doing their bit to keep the film and photographic paper industries alive. Of course, we encourage folks to send us their picture and we love to publish good photos that display our readers to their best advantage. But for every picture that makes its way into our pages a bushel or so languish unseen. JoAnn must have a basement full.

Is it 'cause we're meanies who refuse to print everyone's picture? We couldn't if we wanted to. There just aren't enough pages. The pages we do have are longing to hold your beautiful visage and show it off to the whole world. (At least all the other *LadyLike* readers will see it.) To make things easier I'm giving you some inside tips on what it takes to get your photo into a future issue of *LadyLike*.

## Say Cheese

The first and foremost thing we look for is a smile. Look at photos of attractive women. Those who smile are by far the easiest on the eye. Yes, I know there are sexy and sultry looks in *Playboy* and other magazines featuring feminine pulchritude, but those young ladies have about ten people standing around, out of the picture area, coaching and cajoling them into just the right look. Without that kind of attention to detail a sexy, sultry look can often turn out resembling a bout of gastric distress. A smile is the quickest way to look both feminine and attractive.

## Get an Entourage

Next, see what you can do to assemble your own group of stylists. (Those are the people who coach the models.) Since you're not posing for *Playboy* you don't need a large group of attendants. If you have one friend who can take a picture and another who can tell you to move your arm higher, turn a little to the left, smile a little more. That's all you need to get a flattering picture. Why can't my photographer take care of posing me, you ask? Well, if your photographer is worth any good they're paying attention to little things like lighting, focus and *f*-stops. All the technical things that make a photo great. Your stylist is the one who concentrates on looking at **you**. They are there to notice that your dress is wrinkled, your hair is mussed or you've got lipstick on your teeth. If you can't get someone

to style you, make sure you've got a big mirror right next to your photographer. Then before each shot you pose and style yourself. If you don't have a photographer you can use a camera with a timer on a tripod. You can do it yourself, it's just a lot more work: looking beautiful, styling yourself, and taking the pictures.

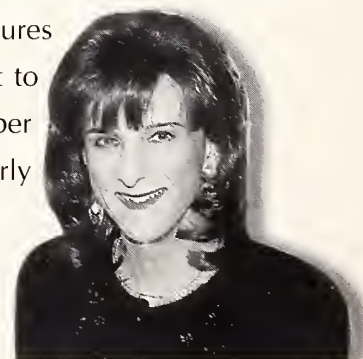
## Do Your Homework

Look through fashion magazines and fashion catalogs. Look at the attractive girls in back issues of *LadyLike*, and don't forget to look at old pictures of yourself. See which things about the models are attractive, and which previous pictures of you worked well. Practice the poses in a mirror. If you have a video camera you can preview your poses before you get to the still photo session and save a lot of time and developing money.

## The Package Deal

Another way to go, if you have the extra cash, is a glamour photo place in your area. You give them money and they style, dress, do your makeup and take the shot. The advantage of using a professional place is, you're paying for a professional service and they should be able to deliver the goods. Look through their book first and check out their work. If the photos look good give them a try. They will have all the bells and whistles, like backdrops, special filters that can soften your features and the benefits of a makeup artist. Of course, to take advantage of their services you will have to come out to them. (See Deb MacKinnon's Profile for her glamour photo experience.) Take a photo of yourself en femme and visit the studio. Let them see what you look like and ask them if they are comfortable working with you. If they are you can make the appointment and by the time you show up for your session you already know them, they know you and you've seen what wardrobe, backdrops, etc. they have available.

So, that's it. There are several ways to get a great photo of yourself en femme. Pick the one you like and get those pictures in the mail. We can't wait to see the results. Just remember one thing — show those pearly whites when you smile!





# LadyLike

A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers with Class

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A Canadian girl who gets around, Deb's story will ring true for many readers.

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**Lydia's Pride ..... 28**

Lydia's TV Fashions participated in L.A.'s 96 Pride Parade. It was the first TG float in the parade, ever.

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This issue Laurie Ann tackles Roman Polanski's disturbing film-noir *The Tenant*.

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## LadyLike Profile

Deborah Lynne MacKinnon

**Age:** 41

**PROFESSION:**

Industrial mechanic

**RESIDENCE:**

Southern Ontario, Canada

**HEIGHT:** 5' 8"

**WEIGHT:** 142 lbs.

**MEASUREMENTS:** 37-30-32, Size  
12-14

**SHOE SIZE:** 8½ - 9

### Favorite Things

**SHOE STYLE:** 3 inch heels &  
ankle straps

**PERFUME:** Charlie & Eliz. Arden

**MOVIE:** The Godfather, Silence  
of the Lambs

**STYLES:** From ankle length to  
"almost a belt."

**MUSIC:** Madonna, Deep Purple

**PLACE:** Ladies wear  
department in any store.

**TURN-ONS:** Long beautiful  
hair, shopping.

**TURN-OFFS:** People who can't  
mind their own business.





# Deborah Lynne MacKinnon

**LadyLike:** What was your first experience with women's clothes? How old were you and what did you wear?

**Deb MacKinnon:** When I was eight years old I tried on my sister's Sunday School dress. It was a beautiful yellow dress with white lace trim on the collar, sleeves, and around the hem. I also put on her white knee socks and patent leather shoes. Having that dress on was the most exciting feeling I'd ever had and I was so entranced by my image in the mirror that I didn't hear my mother coming. When she walked in the room she took one look at me and said, "You're always doing something stupid, aren't you?" and walked out. So there I was, two minutes into my first crossdressing experience and I was already caught and scared half to death. I scrambled out of those clothes and into my own, vowing never, ever to do it again, but it was too late. After that brief encounter I was hooked. I found myself back in my sister's room playing dress-up at every opportunity. I was careful not to get caught again. I don't know if my mother ever told anyone because nothing was ever said, but I would get strange looks whenever my sister couldn't find something.

**LL:** What kind of childhood did you have outside of your secret crossdressing?

**DM:** I was a pretty average kid, a typical Beaver Cleaver type. I'm a baby boomer so I grew up in a neighborhood with lots of other kids. We did all the usual things, like play baseball in the Summer, hockey in the Winter, and we joined the Boy Scouts. Being part of a peer group is important to a growing boy. I was small for my age, but I excelled at sports so I enjoyed a good position in the group. Aside from sports, we spent a lot of time hanging around acting tough (it was a sin to be a sissy) and showing off in front of the girls.

One thing that always puzzled me was my sister was always borrowing **my** clothes. She would go out wearing my hockey or baseball jersey, my jacket and sometimes even my jeans. Everyone thought she looked pretty cool wearing my clothes. I couldn't understand why she would want to wear my sweatshirt and jeans when she had all those beautiful clothes that I was just dying for.

I never complained about her borrowing my stuff, but now that I look back, maybe my crossdressing sister had a bigger influence on my life than I realized.

**LL:** You were married and kept your crossdressing a secret from your wife. How successful were you?

**DM:** When I got married I really hit the jackpot. My wife was the exactly the same size as me. All her clothes, lingerie (even her shoes) fit me perfectly. We worked different shifts so I had a lot of time to indulge my favorite pastime. To keep it interesting I was always buying my wife new clothes for every occasion and all her friends thought I was just great because I spent so much money on her. I wonder what they would have thought if they knew the real reason behind it.

I was having so much fun as Debbie that I really wanted to tell my wife, but she was a pretty straight laced and I didn't think I should chance it. The wildest thing I ever talked her into was switching from pantyhose to garters and stockings, which was my preference.

I think another reason I didn't want to tell her was that I had become accustomed to being the man of the house in our relationship and I'm not sure I could have handled looking and acting feminine in front of her.

My secret almost came to an end one day when she came home unexpectedly. I was dressed in my favorite outfit: matching black bra, panties and garter belt, silky black stockings, a gorgeous red evening dress and three inch heels with ankle straps. I curled my long hair with the curling iron and added some makeup, including red lipstick. I had just settled in the big easy chair with a glass of white wine and was feeling pretty good about myself when I heard the key slide into the lock on the front door.

Panic stricken I jumped up and ran to the bathroom just in time. I peeled off all the clothes and stuffed them in the hamper, shoes and all. After a quick shower I came out and acted surprised like I

didn't know she was home.







I was lucky she hadn't seen me. One other time when I was sitting on the back porch dressed, she came home early. I hid behind some chairs and prayed she wouldn't come out to the porch. When I heard her go down to the laundry room I slipped back inside to get changed.

After two near-misses like that I limited my crossdressing to just a couple of times a week until I got my nerve back. I always managed to keep my crossdressing a secret but I was growing increasingly frustrated at having to sneak around in my own home. We divorced after a few years for other reasons, but now I wonder if my resentment may have crept into my attitude about other things.

**LL: The urge to mingle with other people seems to be somewhat common for crossdressers. You said you got tired of dressing up alone, what was your first experience with an organized CD support group like?**



**DM:** I was all dressed up with nowhere to go when I saw an ad for the Canadian Cross Dresser's Club and decided it was time to get out. The thought of going to an organized CD club was very exciting and I felt like a little kid on the way to Disneyland.

I didn't really know what to expect since I had not met another crossdresser before, but they were some of the friendliest people I had ever met. It was a lot of fun to get dressed

up and talk to other people about clothes and makeup, and to compare past experiences.

I think what I found the most surprising after talking to the people at the club and reading some of the magazines (*LadyLike*, of course!) was just how many crossdressers there are out there in the world. I knew I wasn't the only one, but I had no idea how extensive the crossdressing community was. Some friendships were made that night that have lasted several years now.

I think all crossdressers who have been hiding at home should get out and join their local club. It's a great way to make new friends and show off some of those great clothes you've been admiring yourself in secretly.

**LL: You say you go out often in the city. When did you first decide to venture out in public?**

**DM:** After a few visits to the club I was getting bored again (it seems I get bored fairly easily) and decided it was time for a new adventure out in public. I tried a couple of walks around downtown to see if I could pass, and, much to my amazement, I did pretty well. So, it was off to the shopping mall.

I was really nervous my first time dressed in a store, and I'm sure I must have looked like a shoplifter or something because I kept looking over my shoulder to see if anyone was looking at me. After a few minutes I started to relax and enjoy myself. I was admiring a nice little black cocktail dress when a saleswoman just popped up out of nowhere and said, "Would you like to try that on?" I'm sure my heart stopped for several seconds while I stood there with my mouth hanging open, but I finally recovered and said, "Sure, that would be nice" and off to the dressing room I went. Well, it was a dream come true... I was being treated like a real woman.

That was three years ago and since then I've been a regular Saturday afternoon shopper. I try on clothes, shoes and I even joined the cosmetics club at one store. I've never had a bad experience shopping en femme and it's becoming my favorite pastime. I usually go alone, but sometimes I can talk someone into coming along to share the fun. An afternoon out usually consists of some shopping and a bite to eat at one of the cafes. I've gotten to know some of the salespeople and there is quite often some pleasant chit-chat to go along with the shopping.

Saturday night we usually go to supper at one of Toronto's finer restaurants and then one or more of the local bars. Sometimes we go to straight bars, but usually it's a gay or lesbian place because we're sure we will be



accepted without any problems. When we get tired of the bar scene we sometimes go to the movies.

**LL: Do you have any funny stories about being out?**

**DM:** I've had a few memorable moments. One of the first things I ever did when I went out in public was have my portrait done by a sidewalk artist in downtown Toronto. I had to sit on this little chair by the curb in the bright afternoon sun for about twenty minutes while she did the drawing. This was a very busy street and at one point there were about eleven people standing there looking at me and watching the artist work. I was a little nervous with all these people looking at me because I was pretty much trapped there until this thing was over. The only comment came from some guy who said, "Hey, it looks just like you." (Who the hell did he think it was going to look like?) Everything went just fine and it's a good thing because it boosted my confidence, which helped me through some of the more bizarre things that happened later.

One afternoon when I was out for a walk with my friend Richelle, someone tapped me on the shoulder from behind. My first thought was, "Oh no!, someone's recognized me," but when I turned around it was a group of teenage girls who had read us and wanted to have their picture taken with us. I figured, what the hell, we've already been read so lets do it, and Richelle agreed. We lined up with Richelle and me in the middle, one of the girls on each end, and the other girl was set to take the picture. There we are, arms around one another, stupid smiles on our faces and... the camera won't work. It was a busy sidewalk and people started to bunch up on either side of us because they didn't want to walk in front of the camera. Well it was just too much. I started to laugh and soon everyone else did, too. Here we were, two beautiful teenage girls with two, by this time, very obvious cross-dressers, with a troublesome camera and a crowd of impatient passersby. Finally the camera worked and we sent the girls on their way with pleasant goodbyes and a story to tell when they got home.

The most embarrassing moment came when I got my heel caught in the grate around a small tree growing in the sidewalk. I wasn't watching where I was going and jammed my heel in the grate and couldn't get it out. I thought the simplest thing to do would be to take the shoe off, but my light weight Summer skirt had taken on a life of its own, slapping wildly in the wind, some where up around ear level. I was fighting a losing battle, trying

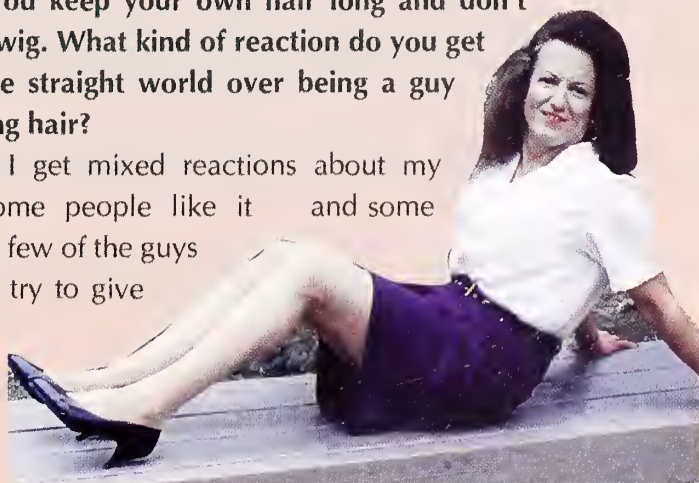
to bring my skirt under control with one hand and trying to undo a stubborn ankle strap with the other. Finally a sympathetic woman stopped and helped me pull the shoe free while several motorists waiting for a light watched with rather amused expressions. The blush on my cheeks that day didn't come from a compact.

I once had a straight guy try to pick me up in a coffee shop. I was wearing a real short, pleated skirt and high heels. I guess that's about all he was looking at because I talked to him for five minutes before he realized I wasn't a real woman. He got all embarrassed and apologized, but I told him it was really quite flattering.

I think the funniest guy who ever hit on me was a sort of comical guy I had talked to before in a gay bar. There were about five of us in the bar one night when he decided to make his move. When I explained to him I wasn't gay - that none of us were gay - he demanded an explanation. I tried to tell him crossdressing was kind of a hobby for us and we did it for fun. He got upset and said if I needed a hobby I should consider buying a fishing pole instead of a short skirt.

**LL: You keep your own hair long and don't wear a wig. What kind of reaction do you get from the straight world over being a guy with long hair?**

**DM:** I get mixed reactions about my hair. Some people like it and some don't. A few of the guys at work try to give me a hard time and





tell me I look like a woman from behind. I guess the laugh's on them.

I've had some people come right out and say they don't like it and I should get a man's haircut, but that usually comes from people who are half bald, and I think they're really just jealous. Most people don't react at all. I guess you have to have purple hair or something these days to be noticed. It wasn't always like this though. I started growing my hair long in the late Sixties and was once refused service in a restaurant because of my long hair. Maybe I should go back there some day with a skirt on and see what they think of me now. The benefits and pleasures of having my hair long far outweigh the few minor problems it causes.



**LL:** Do any of your straight friends know?

**DM:** No, I've never told any of my friends. I live in a small, conservative town where outlandish behavior is unacceptable and I'm sure crossdressing would fit that category. One male co-worker of mine got his ear pierced and the other guys gave him such a hard time he finally gave it up and let the hole grow over. So there's no way I'm going to tell them about my new cocktail dress.

I wish I could tell people here instead of having to sneak off to another city, because it would be nice to be able to share more of my life with my family and friends.

Another thing I have to consider is that by telling people about my crossdressing, not only would I become an object of ridicule, and be considered the village idiot, but I'm sure my family would have to endure some unpleasantness and I just couldn't do that to them. I've been keeping this a secret in my home town for so long now that I've just accepted it as a fact of life.

**LL:** You had your photo taken by Glamour Shots. How did the staff there interact with you? Did they indicate they knew you weren't a female?





**DM:** I think going to Glamour Shots was the most fun I've ever had. One of the rules there is that you must arrive with a clean face, meaning no makeup whatsoever. Since I knew there was no possibility of fooling anyone I didn't even try. I went in as a guy, showed the girl behind the counter a picture of myself *en femme* and told her this was what I wanted. She said no problem and the appointment was made for the following week.

When I arrived for the big day they made me feel completely at ease right away. There were some female customers having makeovers and they gave me some strange looks at first because I was sitting there with no makeup and big pink curlers in my hair. Once the makeup started to go on and take shape I was just one of the girls.

The makeup artist chatted with me, using my femme name, all through the makeup application and hair styling, just like he did with the other women. When the makeup was done one of the young ladies who worked there guided me through their extensive wardrobe, advising me as to which outfits would look good on me. We finally decided on a combination of their clothes and some I had brought with me. Next came the photogra-

pher, who was very professional and polite.

When the session was over I sat and chatted with some of the other women for a while and compared notes as to how everything had been for them. I was pampered and treated royally. I was Queen for a day.

I think I may have also fulfilled a fantasy for the female staff members by allowing them to take a guy and dress him up in women's clothes.

**LL: Is "passing" a big concern for you?**

**DM:** Passing used to be the most important part of going out in public, but the more I went out the more I realized passing doesn't really matter.

For me, the fun is being able to get dressed and go out to do normal, everyday things that real women do. It doesn't matter to me what people know, or think they know. My most recent outing was to Lenscrafters for new glasses. I don't think I fooled anyone there but I looked and acted like a woman and that's how I was treated.

I find that when I'm out in public *en femme* I'm treated better than I am as a guy. People smile more, say hello and hold doors for me. So whether they know or not doesn't matter; I'm having the time of my life.

LL





# Girl Talk

with JoAnn Roberts

**Girl Talk is  
your forum.**

**Any  
question on  
any topic is  
fair game,  
from makeup  
secrets to the  
psychology of  
transgendered  
behavior.**

**If I don't have an  
answer, I'll find  
someone who does.  
Write me care of this  
magazine with your  
questions.**

Dear JoAnn,

Is there such a thing as a beard retardant, something that will let me go for more than 6 hours without having to shave?

Marsha, Ohio

Dear Marsha,

As far as I know, there is no chemical or compound that will temporarily stop hair growth. I've asked a few MDs and they didn't seem to know of anything either. Guess we're stuck with shaving, waxing and electrolysis.

Dear JoAnn.

What brand of stick-on nails do you recommend?

Diane, Penna.

Dear Diane,

Actually, I don't recommend any special brand. They're all about the same. What is important is the width of the largest nail and the type of glue used.

Most of us have trouble finding thumbnails wide enough to cover the nail bed. That's what you want to look for — wide thumb nails. My good friend Lynda Krupa at Cdtips (Cdtips@aol.com or 215-878-3383) has some really wide nail tips. As for attaching the nails, use double tapes or try using rubber cement.

Dear JoAnn,

How do I give light eyebrows more definition?

Beverly, Mich.

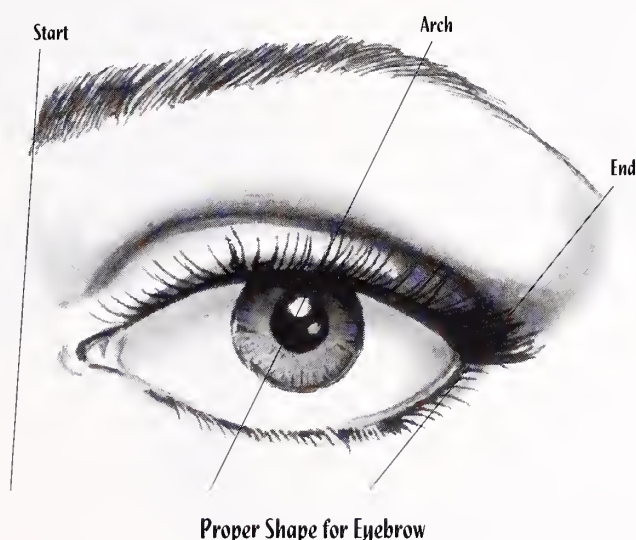
Dear Beverly,

That's why they make eyebrow pencils, dear. Actually, having light brows is not a problem. The rule of thumb is that your eyebrows should be one to two shades lighter than your hair color unless you are a blonde, in which case they should be one to two shades darker. If your brows are very much lighter than your hair color,



then you want to darken slightly and define them with eyeshadow which looks much more natural than pencil. Use an angled eyeshadow brush to control the application of color.

The correct shape for your eyebrow is determined by placing an eyebrow pencil against the base of your nose and lining it up with the inner corner of your eye. That's where the brow starts. Keeping the pencil against the base of your nose, rotate the pencil so it passes over the center of the iris and that is where the arch should be. Then rotate the pencil once again and lay it over the outer corner of the eye and that's where the brow ends.



Dear JoAnn,

**I am 5' 9", 170 lbs. with great legs and a good amount of natural breasts (a little larger than an A but less than a B). How can I increase my breast size naturally and when I've reached whatever size that is, what is the best way to get a little larger? How does one determine what size is best?**

**Barbara, Iowa**

Dear Barbara,

Your letter brings up several issues. First is the question of what you mean by "natural." I presume you mean without surgery. So, let's look at non-surgical enhancements. You can develop the pectoral muscles through exercise which will enhance the breasts as explained by Dr. Delia VanMaris in *LadyLike* #18 (sold out, sorry). There are a number of herbal concoctions that claim to mimic estrogenic hormones and presumably cause some increase in breast size. Save your money, the effect is doubtful. Then there are anti-androgens such as spironolactone which is often combined with estrogen in hor-

monal therapy for transsexuals. Anti-androgens block the action of testosterone and other endogenous androgens in the body and some of these blocked androgens will be converted to estrogens which can affect breast tissue size. Finally, there are the estrogen compounds themselves.

Any course of action other than simple exercise is potentially dangerous and life threatening. I have personally known someone who died from taking illicit hormones. Therefore, I do not advocate the use of drugs, i.e., anti-androgens and/or hormones, unless done under the supervision of a qualified doctor. Even then, the increase in breast size will depend more on your family's genetics than dosage and type of drug.

As for what is the best size, that depends of the overall balance and proportion of your figure. Based on your measurements, I'd say a B cup is appropriate. But most guys like bigger breasts, so, in the end, it's what you like that matters.

#### **Subject: Inexpensive Breastforms (from the Internet)**

Dear JoAnn,

I came up with a solution for inexpensive breast forms. Go to your local craft store and purchase two (2 ea.) 2lb. bags of poly-pellets that are used as weighted stuffing material for dolls, etc. These pellets are easy to use... non-toxic... and washable. Pour one (2lbs.) bag into one thigh-high panty hose leg. Tie the top of the thigh-high as tight or as loose as you want depending on the firmness you wish for the breastform. For safety in case you don't want to take a chance of the hose ripping and spilling pellets all over the place you may want to cover the thigh-high with a second thigh-high just . The two pound bag of pellets costs \$4.95 and the thigh-highs are \$4.00 (or less) so for an investment less than \$20 you have a pretty good pair of inexpensive breasts. By the way, the 2 lb. bag fits into a 38D bra perfectly. Hope this will be helpful for your readers.

Stay frosty!

JoAnn





# Fantasy Connections

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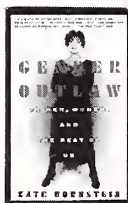
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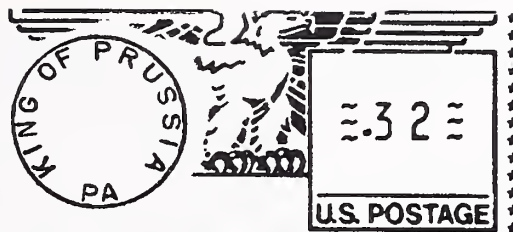
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# Letters



## We Hit The Nail...

Dear JoAnn & Angela,

Enclosed is my check for \$32 to renew my subscription to *LadyLike*. I look forward to every new issue and have never been disappointed. In my opinion you have hit upon the optimum mix of entertainment and education. And, unlike ordinary magazines, I even like the advertisements.

My absolute favorite feature is the Profile. I admire my TV/TG sisters for coming forward with their stories. For closeted TVs like myself this section provides both comfort and inspiration. However, the profiles can also be somewhat depressing to those of us who will never look that good or integrate crossdressing into our lives that well. Nevertheless, it is still my favorite part of the magazine.

Personally, I am trying to sort out what level of crossdressing and community involvement is appropriate for me. In fact, I felt as if Angela's editorial in issue #27 was directed right at me. You can bet that I'll re-read this insightful editorial many times on my own journey of discovery. To that end, *LadyLike* has been of immense help.

Sincerely,  
Bobbi

## Oops!

Dear Ms. Gardner,

Just a brief note of thanks for the current issue (#27) of *LadyLike* and to compliment you on your first two issues. I am glad to see the not-so-hot advertising disappear that had been the millstone hung on this fine publication. But as with all new endeavors,



small slips manage to creep in, and I am one of those to whom it happened. In no way is this a "federal case," but one that my friends might not understand. So this is a gentle, non-threatening (I hope!) reminder to perhaps have it corrected in the next issue, or perhaps, not even at all, if you print any of the pictures I submitted recently in an upcoming issue with the correct state. You placed my picture on the bottom of page 28, in color, with my name printed along side, and "Wash." given as my state. For those who know me this might come as a surprise, so it may be important for them to know that I still live in Northwest California, and that I have not moved!

Other than that, I must compliment you again on a superb publication. Someday it would be nice to be on the front cover, but I am sure there are others more photogenic, and their stories more interesting, so this old matriarch will be content in the knowledge that she has been one of the pioneers.

Love and affection,  
Lois E. Fisher

*Sorry we moved you, but now that the mistake has been made the van*

*will be there within a few days to get your stuff. Seriously, sorry about that. Things do tend to go astray — a personal friend of mine had a staple through her eye in the same issue. I suspect the layout department has been nipping at our medicinal sherry.*

*If we can't get you on a cover we could certainly consider you for, at the very least, a Then & Now. It's very important to remember our pioneers — especially those with such pretty smiles. (See my editorial about smiles.)*

## Ya Gotta Have Friends

Dear Angela,

I have been reading your magazine for several years now and find it to be one of the best in the area of crossdressing. Keep up the good work.

I recently had the chance to go out dressed for the first time. I was quite nervous, but decided that it was now or never. I went to a gay bar that accepts crossdressers. At over six feet tall, I'm sure I fooled no one, but once inside I felt more comfortable. I was even approached by two men.

There were a few other crossdressers there but they were not alone so I did not approach them. They seemed like they had been there before and I wished they had talked to me.

Next time will be easier.

Laura James, Ohio

*Your photo looks quite fetching and I can see why the men approached you. Gay bars are the most accepting of crossdressers, generally speaking, but they can be intimidating to enter on your own. (Regular ladies usually*

*continued on page 15*





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## Letters

only enter a club alone if they are meeting a friend.) I sure the other girls would have talked to you if you had smiled and said hello. (Again the importance of a smile!) If they don't want to talk to you you'll be able to tell right away but if you don't make yourself available for conversation you'll never know. Make next time soon and let us know how many new friends you make.



## Another Pat On The Back

Dear Angela,

Congratulations on becoming the new editor of *LadyLike*. I thoroughly enjoyed the last issue. You said you wanted pictures so here are a couple from yours truly. I enclosing a SASE if you have time to return them. Please tell JoAnn that Cena says "Hello" since we are old friends and I have often attended Paradise in the Poconos.

Yours truly,

Cena

*JoAnn returns your "hello" and I gracefully accept your congratulations. They are all the better when they come from such a lovely lady in a little black dress and leather – one of my favorite*



*combinations. Thank you for the SASE. That's the best way to get your pictures back since it makes things a lot easier for us. Thanks for sharing your great legs with our readers.*

## Fashion by Example

Dear JoAnn,

I hope you have time for another of my brief reflections. Don't you feel corroborated and justified when you see a GG wearing one of your recent acquisitions? I certainly do! The most recent occurrence was several weeks ago. A woman at work was wearing a pair of shoes exactly like the ones I had just bought. (The trendy Mary Jane style with a medium heel and three thin straps across the foot, in black of course.) I had deliberated intensely over which style to buy when I saw the tri-strap Mary Janes. I felt that three thin straps in place of one wide strap added a little daintiness to this unfeminine yet trendy style. And they were in my size! Yes, they looked nice on her, confirming my choice. I can't wait to wear them to our next CIGA meeting. I know they'll look great with jet black

stockings and mid-calf length black dress.

M. Maguire

*Observing other women is how most ladies decide what they're going to wear, so, you see, your feminine intuition is becoming more developed. I think Mary Janes are very feminine but clunky. First popularized by little schoolgirls, they add an air of innocence to the naughty trendoids of the Nineties. I have a few pairs myself.*

## An In-Depth Review

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

As I always thoroughly enjoy each new issue of *LadyLike*. I'm forever telling myself I should write to tell you just how very much I respect and admire your consistently fine publication. Well, Angela's editorial (LL#26) has finally motivated me to write.

Yes indeed girls, "A tasteful magazine for crossdressers with class," that really says it all! Honestly, I'm just so grateful to you for providing the best CD magazine I've ever seen!

In a few more days, I'll have been a crossdresser nearly all of my 47 years. Due to my job (23 years of active duty military), I have traveled all over this country and most of the world. Doing so, I have found literally dozens of books, magazines and newspapers which reported themselves as the Premier CD periodical in existence. Most were salacious trash! All too often, most of them proved to be poor-quality drawings, old photos and articles plagiarized from other publications. These merely cheat us of our money.

Some other magazines attempted to be a sole-source magazine of interest for the entire gender spectrum - from CD to TS, to male or female, to married or single, and to hetero or homo. There is one in particular that I

*continued on page 16*



find often stridently militant about its "rainbow of gender" political agenda that it quickly turns me off. Sure, I do want to better enjoy my crossdressing, but I'm not prepared to make unrealistic and impractical personal sacrifices to do so, nor do I like being ceaselessly lectured about my moral duty to fight for worldwide gender-equity! After all, I've got a man's full-time job and responsibilities! I only dress part-time.

Sadly, most CD publications are still essentially no more than self-serving infomercials. Cover to cover advertisements for exorbitantly-priced clothing, personal items, products and services which will allegedly make a CDs lifestyle more enjoyable. Sigh! Isn't it just perfectly obvious that they're just taking gross advantage of us as CDs? They not only prey on our fears

the money from our purses.

Fortunately, experienced CDs have learned that we can buy (for much better prices) all of the quality clothes, lingerie, cosmetics, wigs, shoes and jewelry we want from any of a large variety of reputable mail-order catalogs (and quite anonymously do so), and even in public from any good, customer-oriented store (and we'll be treated quite respectfully too).

Angela, you asked what we would like to see in *LadyLike*. Well, I would again like to tell you how much I like how you've organized LL. It's really great! But, I do want to second your motion to include more color photos. I just love the Then & Now and the two Mirror-Mirror photo departments. I'd enjoy a larger "letters to the editor" section, as well as an expanded Girl Talk department, both with more photos. I like Laurie Ann's TVideo Review feature a lot too, and appreciate learning where these video are still available. JoAnn's On My Mind section is great, and I like your editorial page article very much. I also liked Christie Lea's satire, *The Devil in the Black Dress*, and Dee Burden's *The Unqualified Cheerleader* story.

Kaye's Korner was OK, but frankly, I am simply not enjoying hearing about Ms Denny's apparently endless Problem. And, I found the Flash Back biography feature a bit too scholarly and dry to enjoy, though seeing the historical photos was amusing.

All in all, in my opinion, *LadyLike* is by far the best CD magazine out there! Please keep it up! Enclosed is a photo of me "en femme" which you may use if you like. Yours Sincerely,

Mikki Lynne

*Thanks for all your praise, and for your suggestions as well. After getting all those positive strokes from you it's a little hard to disagree with anything*

*you've said, but I'm going to anyway.*

*Near the beginning of your letter you said you didn't like a particular publication because of it's "rainbow of gender" theme and justified your position by saying that you only dress up part of the time. In the next paragraph you complain about the con artists who try to take advantage of the gullibility of crossdressers to make a buck. You fail to see that it's through the cooperation of the entire "rainbow" gender community that we can ever rid ourselves of these vultures.*

*You may be able to take off your dress and wash off your makeup, but you can't remove the need from your spirit. That need makes you a sister to every member of the TG community. All of us who are transgendered should feel obligated to support the entire community in whatever way we can.*

*No need to make "impractical personal sacrifices" to support the transgendered community. Send five dollars to GenderPAC, join a support organization that provides information about transgender issues, write a letter to a legislator promoting transgender awareness. (No need to give you r male name.) All of these will contribute to make life better for all of us and generations of transgendered yet to come.*

*Now, someone help me off this soapbox. I don't want to break a heel. Thanks for reading LadyLike.*

*Oh, wait, the Boss wants to say something... Yes, Angie, you forgot to give them the GenderPAC address. For those of you who don't want to make those impractical personal sacrifices, like visiting your Congressional Rep, GenderPAC will make them for you with a little financial boost from you. Send your tax-deductible contributions (even a few bucks will help) to GenderPAC, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154.*



of discovery and embarrassment by their abusively-high prices, they also sell us absolutely quack feminizing-products (garbage like, "Fem-Gland") which will really do nothing but take





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Photo Model - Briu

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# Grand Opening of the Newest

Report & photos by Dana B., NYC



The lead for this story came from the Imperial Court of New York, an

organization which is intimately associated with the new venue, **Lips**, located at Two Bank Street in Greenwich Village, New York. A "spy" in the Court hinted that Lips is a she-she new New York restaurant with a tongue-in-cheek twist: wait staff in drag who spontaneously perform with their lips! To music.

It was suggested that Lips is an intimate Hard Rock Cafe in High Drag with the royal tradition of the Imperial Court as its theme. Thus, it was learned that Lips also houses a hall-of-fame of emperors and empresses, and a museum of their priceless drag treasures. What grand intrigues awaited? *LadyLike* got the dish on opening night last August.

From the street a single, bold, neon smacker betrays this 90's speakeasy where the notorious contraband is gender bending at its best and the password is girls, girls? girls!

Standing outside with the media hounds teaming to get a sniff and super-models of the world lined up as far as the eye could see.



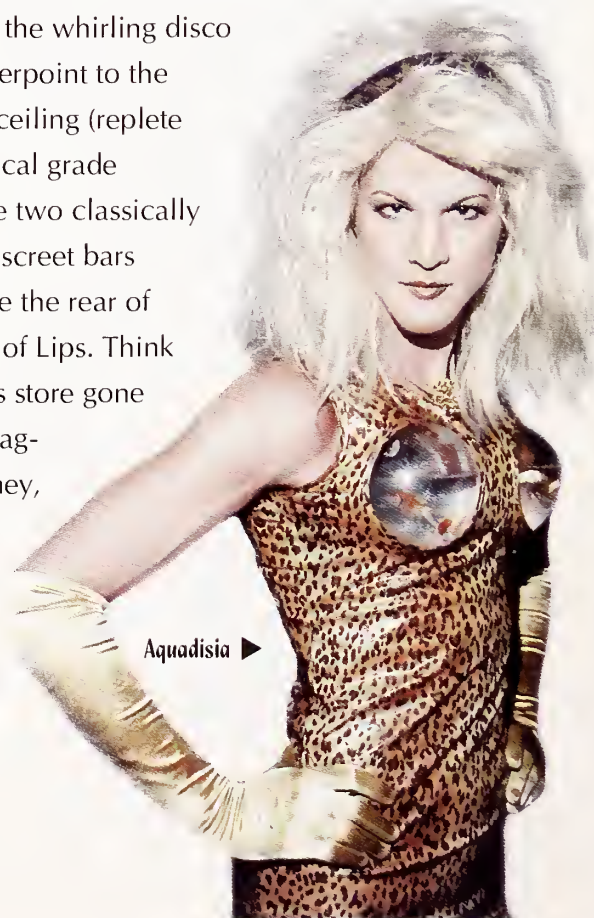
Charles Busch expounds on Lips.



The party rages on at Lips, NYC's latest and greatest drag venue.

I wondered what lurked behind the thick, royal blue velvet drapery shielding our mundane metropolis from Lips? Dark and inviting like a womb (Honey, I was terrified!) Lips sucked us in promptly at 8 PM for a peek.

Inside, Lips is a delicious melange of sensuous fabrics, sequined mirrors and rich paneling. Animal print umbrellas hang riotously from the ceiling as if to protect patrons from the purple rain of light streaming down from the whirling disco ball. Counterpoint to the whimsical ceiling (replete with theatrical grade lighting) are two classically dark and discreet bars which grace the rear of both levels of Lips. Think of a notions store gone dragway drag-flaming, honey, but with taste. You're there!



Aquadisia ►



# TG Club/Restaurant in NYC!

After all, good taste is what fine drag dining is all about, right?

The astute reader may well ask, hysteria or haute cuisine? While those in need of a dilemma can ponder whether Lips is dinner theater for the Liberace set or refuge for the true libertine — these pressing matters remain moot as existential angst was **not** on everyone's Lips opening night! Clever cocktails, sumptuous fare, and million-



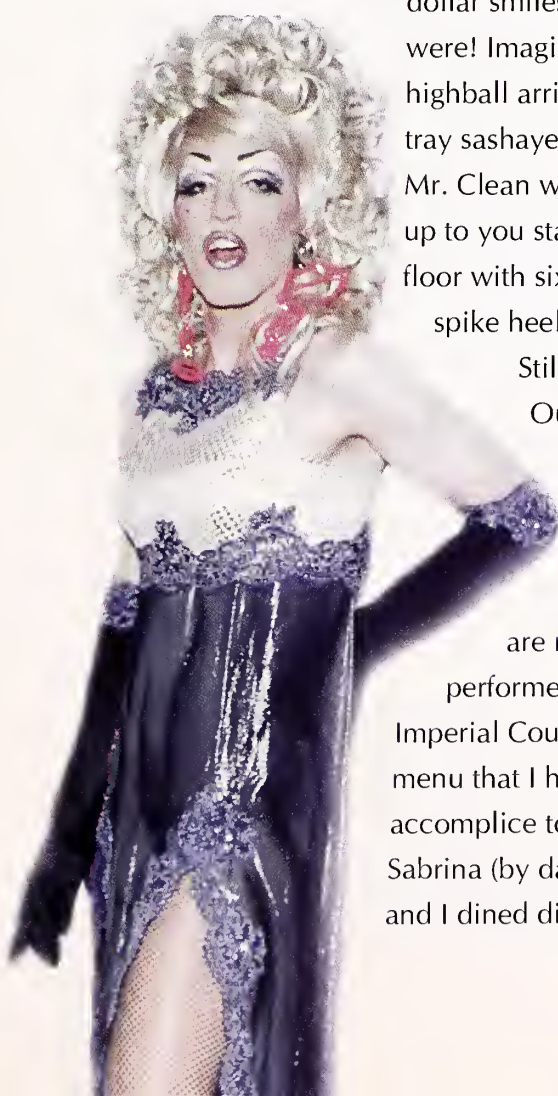
◀ Brenda Starr

meal plan as seen in *Cosmo*. And what a fine meal it was, but space limits us from waxing poetic. Go! Eat! You'll love it!

If you can still fit into your dress after a Friday night dinner, Lips offers a classic brunch on Saturdays and Sundays for just \$9.95 (including a breakfast cocktail). Imagine what your morning can be like if Melissa Thunderpussy serves you breakfast.

Shirley, this is the last word in fine drag dining? Oh my, lips are sealed!

Sue Ellen



dollar smiles were! Imagine your highball arriving on a tray sashayed by a Mr. Clean who sidles up to you stabbing the floor with six inch spike heels.

Still thirsty? Order "Wigged-Out Drink." "Anita Cocktail," but you may observe "Glennnda Orgasm!"

Yes this was heard at the bar because menu items are named after famous lip-sync performers, notorious drag queens and Imperial Courtiers. So compelling is the menu that I had to return to Lips with an accomplice to sample the fare. Fair maiden Sabrina (by day, a member of the cloth!) and I dined discreetly following the Lips

Larita Dumont





# Then & Now

## Bob Davis



1964 - Sr. year in High School, Hallowe'en.



1978 — Nancy with friend Wendy

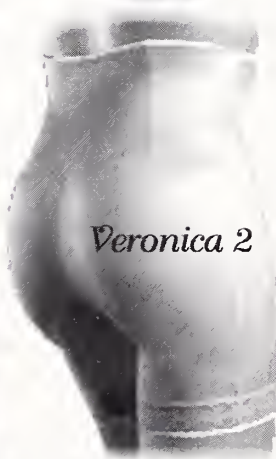
Yes, that Bob Davis. The one who writes our FlashBack column!



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# Then & Now

LadyLike

## Bob Davis



1976 - Sexy Fence Leaning



1979 - at Tool & Die Performance Art space.



1996 - Wigstock West

**Lips**

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DRAG DINING**

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**LUNCH  
BRUNCH  
DINNER  
LATE NIGHT**



# Kaye's Korner

Relationship Issues with Linda & Vanessa Kaye



Dear Vanessa and Linda,

*I'm a married TV and we have two young children, a boy 8 and a girl 10. I think the children should know that I am a crossdresser. My wife says they don't need to know. We're stuck in a stalemate. What do you think?*

**Confused**

Dear Confused,

This is a topic which often comes up when a couple in a transgendered relationship have children. There is no simple right or wrong answer to this, it is a highly personal issue which must be dealt with by the individual couple. We have friends in the community who have told their children, and others who have not. What is right for one couple and their children may not be right for another.

We have a rule of our own regarding telling about Vanessa. It is a simple one, tell those who have a "need to know." Along with this remember one other thing, nothing stays a secret forever.

Do an eight and ten year old have a "need to know?" Only you can answer that. However, let's look further down the road. Let's say that you and your wife were in your sixties, and your children in their forties. Sooner or later, a time would come when your children would have to settle your estate and sort through your belongings. Before this time comes, one, if not both of them, would definitely "need to know."

We have a dear friend who has taken an alternate approach to this matter. She has what she calls "Crossdressing Insurance." Our sister has made arrangements with fellow crossdressers to take care of her "things" in the event of her passing. She has made meticulous arrangements to ensure that her family will not discover her secret.

It is obvious by the question that there is conflict between husband and wife on this issue. That, in itself, may well be creating turmoil both in the marriage and in life of the family. Chil-

dren are very intuitive and they pick up on conflict and stress in their parents. It is our thought that this particular issue needs to be dealt with quickly to avoid further upset within the family.

Whereas we certainly don't feel that being transgendered is anything to be ashamed of or dirty, we nonetheless feel that the children's needs come first in this situation. Children of eight and ten are at a very vulnerable stage of their development — they are nearing the beginning of puberty, where they will identify their own sexuality and needs — but more important they are still children at this age. They need the foundation of family life that has been built; they probably see their father as the male role model and the mother as the traditional feminine model. To suddenly change this image may be detrimental to them; at the very least, it may be very confusing to suddenly see their male role model become feminized. It will not be understandable to them. Another thought is that because most likely the femme side of Dad is kept secret, you will be burdening them with a secret from other family members and friends. Children do not need such a burden, in our opinion.

In defense of those of our friends who have told their children, and incorporated the father's femme persona into family life, our observation is that it has worked. However, both husband and wife made the decision jointly; there was no one-sidedness in the decision making. They have made the femme persona a reality, and one that is welcome and natural within the family framework.

If you tell your children, you won't be able to "un-tell" them. There is plenty of time to tell them later. What is far more important is that you instill in them an acceptance of others, regardless of their race, beliefs, appearance or lifestyle. Teach them to treat others with respect and when the time comes for you to tell them, you will be treated likewise.



**The Kayes have published a book *Life With Vanessa* dealing with issues in relationships. To order your copy send \$11.50 (US only) to M. Kull, 6957 NW Expressway, Suite 121, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.**



# Do You Need Help? Are You Confused??

**Finally! Answers to any questions you have about All areas of Crossdressing !!**

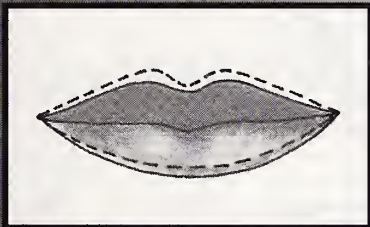
How do I cover my Beard Shadow ??  
What are my correct make-up colors ?  
How do I learn to apply all of this ??



What are the correct shades to use for my eye shape ?? How do I correct my eyebrows if I don't want to tweeze them ??

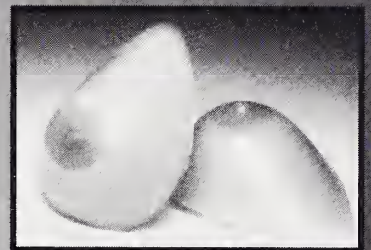


Being a person of large body type or being overweight has nothing to do with looking great and being passable (as seen in this photo)



What is the correct shape for my lips ??

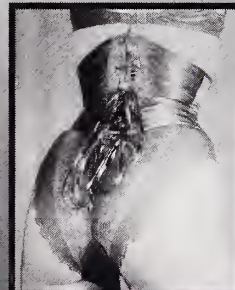
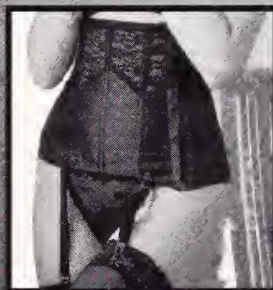
**I can help you with All of your questions !!**



What size and type of breast forms are best for my chest and body type ??

**Why wait any longer! Call me now. You'll be happy you did.**

Should I use a corset, Waist Slimmer, or a modified corset to create a feminine figure ??



Should I wear high heels or low heels ? What is my correct shoe size ??

What wig color, style, and length is best for my face shape and body type ??



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**Call Now For Answers To All of Your Questions! (215) 938-5115**





Lola, Nebraska ▲



Diana, Phillipines ▲



Carol Ann, Connecticut ▲



Becky, North Carolina ▲

Mirror  
Willow

Mirror  
Willow



Marcia, Michigan ▲



Denise, Pennsylvania ▲





Staci, Arkansas ▲



Rachel, Florida ▲



Daphne, Michigan ▲

# Mirror W!LLON



"Sweetie," New York ▲

Melissa, New York ▼



Veronica, New Jersey ▲



# Resources

Our listings are the most up-to-date. Please keep us informed of any changes or additions. Thanks!

## National US Membership Organizations

**American Educational Gender Information Service**, PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. Publishes *Chrysolis*, *AEGISNews*, and several pamphlets on transgender issues. Also book sales. Extensive referral network for all transgender issues. Phone: 770-939-2128. Call in evening. AEGIS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization affiliated with Renaissance (see below). <oejis@mindspring.com> <<http://www.cdspub.com/AEGIS.html>>

**International Foundation for Gender Education**, 123 Moody St., Waltham, MA 02154. Publishes TV/TS *Topestry*. Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Phone: 617-899-2212. A non-profit service organization now accepting memberships of \$25 per year (does not include a *Topestry* subscription). <ifge@world.std.com> <<http://www.trongender.org/ig/ifge/index.html>>

**Renaissance Education Association, Inc.**, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$16 includes a 24-page monthly newsletter *Renaissance News & Views*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <ongela@ren.org> <<http://www.ren.org>>

**Society for the Second Self (SSS)**, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the *Femme Mirror* quarterly. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <<http://www.firstnethou.com/brendo/>>

## Organizations by State, Name, Address, City & Zip code

### Alaska

Alaska T People, c/o P.O. Box 670349, Chugiak, 99567

### Arizona

Alpha Zeta#, PO Box 1738, Tempe, 85280-1738, <[http://users.ool.com/tsjenny/olphi\\_zo.htm](http://users.ool.com/tsjenny/olphi_zo.htm)>

### California

Alpha#, PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, 90036

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, 90048, Phone in L.A.: 213-467-8317; <[shirley@xconn.com](mailto:shirley@xconn.com)>

Born Free, PO Box 1897, Corona, 91718 <[bornfree1@aol.com](mailto:bornfree1@aol.com)>

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, 90808 <[chicsoc@aol.com](mailto:chicsoc@aol.com)>

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, 94527-2885 <<http://www.best.com/~rwr13/dvg/>>

ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, 94142-6486

FTM International, 5337 College Ave., #142, Oakland, 94618 <[jomison@aol.com](mailto:jomison@aol.com)> <<http://www.ftm-intl.org>>

Neutrol Corner, PO Box 12581, San Diego, 92112 <[nutrlcrn@aol.com](mailto:nutrlcrn@aol.com)>

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, 92686, <[ppoc@aol.com](mailto:ppoc@aol.com)>

Rainbow Gender Alliance, PO Box 700730, San Jose, 95170-0730, <<http://www.trongender.org/ig/rgo/rgopage.html>>

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, 95821-1456 <[ovo4sgo@aol.com](mailto:ovo4sgo@aol.com)>

Sigma Sigma Beta#, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, 96151

### Colorado

Delta#, PO Box 16208, Denver, 80216

Gender Identity Center, Inc., 1455 Ammons Street, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993 <[kothyw@fortnet.org](mailto:kothyw@fortnet.org)>

### Connecticut

COS, PO Box 163, Farmington, 06034, <[karocder@aol.com](mailto:karocder@aol.com)>

connecticutView (!), PO Box 2281, Devon, 06460 <<http://www.cdspub.com/ctv.html>>

Twenty (XX) Club Inc. (for TS only), PO Box 387, Hartford, 06141-0387 <<http://www.pcnet.com/~elspeth/>>

### Delaware

Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, 19808

### Florida

Eden Society, PO Box 1692, Pompano Beach, 33061-1692 <[edents@aol.com](mailto:edents@aol.com)>

Phi Epsilon Mu#, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, 32790-3261. For partner concerns <[ggsandra@aol.com](mailto:ggsandra@aol.com)>

Serenity, PO Box 307, Hollywood, 33022

Storburst, P O Box 298, Lithio, FL 33547-0298

Tou Lambda#, PO Box 3426, Tollohossee, 32315-3426

### Georgia

AGE(!), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, 30357

Sigma Epsilon#, PO Box 272, Rosewell, 30077-0272

### Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, 96812

### Iowa

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, 52406

<[scottm@ins.infonet.net](mailto:scottm@ins.infonet.net)> <<http://www.netins.net/showcase/chrisa/iowa.html>>

### Illinois

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 126, Washington, 61517

Chi#, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, 60191-0040 <<http://users.ool.com/chitriess/triss/chimoin.htm>>

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, 60657

### Indiana

IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, 46220

### Kansas

KC Crossdressers & Friends, PO Box 4092, Overland Park, 66204

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO Box 315, Kechi, 67067

### Kentucky

Louisville Gender Society, Box 5458, Louisville, 40255

<[downw@trongender.org](mailto:downw@trongender.org)>

### Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance(!), PO Box 870213, New Orleans, 70187-1300

### Maine

Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave., #345, So. Portland, 04330

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, 04101

### Massachusetts

ASSET (After Surgery Support Exchange for Transsexuals), PO Box 3121, Greenfield, 01302 <[osset@crocker.com](mailto:osset@crocker.com)>

Sunshine Club, c/o Roberta Steel, PO Box 149, Hody, 01035-0149

TCNE Inc., PO Box 2283, Woburn, 01888-0483

### Michigan

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, 48068-1245

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, 49501

### Minnesota

Beta Gamma#, PO Box B591, Minneapolis, 55408

CLCC, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis, 55416

MFGE, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, 55117

### Mississippi

Beta Chi#, PO Box 31253, Jackson, 39286-1253

### Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, 63117,

Phone: 314-367-4128 <[tlgf@aol.com](mailto:tlgf@aol.com)>

### Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 680, Council Bluffs, 51502

<[Fredrickg@aol.com](mailto:Fredrickg@aol.com)>

### Nevada

Theta Upsilon Gamma#, PO Box 91871, Henderson, 89009-1871

### New Jersey

Chi Delta Mu#, PO Box 1, River Edge, 07661-0001

UMPSTART, PO Box 622, Pomorus, 07653

<[chotchko@hoven.ios.com](mailto:chotchko@hoven.ios.com)>

MOTG(!), PO Box 8243, Red Bank, 07701

Renaissance, South Jersey, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, 08330

Sigma Nu Rha#, PO Box 9255, Trenton, 08650



# Resources

Contact CDS by mail at PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, Pa 19406, or by email at [list@cdspub.com](mailto:list@cdspub.com)

## New Mexico

Phi (Fiestol)#, B200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, B7109

## New York

Bi-gender self-help group, Lower Monhotton. Contact Lyndo Frank at 212-765-3561.

CD-Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, 14692

Crossroads of Buffalo, 2316 Delowore Ave, #102, Buffalo, 14216

EON Inc., 523 W. Onandago St., Syracuse, 13204

Lombdo Chi Lombda#, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, 13326

L.I.F.E., PO Box 3015, Lake Ronkonkomo, NY 11779

<Sobrin.Stone@rex.com>

Metropolitan Gender Network(!), 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, 10014

New York GIRL & Portner(!), PO Box 456, Centereoch, 11720

Nu Phi Chi#, 7954 Transit Rd. S197, Williamsville, 14221

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, 12212-3604

Transgender Network, PO Box 1611, South Rd Annex, Poughkeepsie, 12601-0611

## North Carolina

AGO (Alternative Gender-Oriented), 1235-E East Blvd., Charlotte NC 28203

Circle of Children, Rt 5 Box 564, Zebulon, 27597

Koppo Beta#, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, 28220

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, 28814

Triod Gender Assoc., PO Box 78082, Greensboro, 27427-8082

## Ohio

Alpho Omega#, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, 44054-0053

Cross-Port, PO Box 45204, Cincinnati, 45201-1692

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Columbus, 43068

Gloss City Sisters, PO Box B532, Toledo, 43623

Parodise Club, PO Box 29564, Pormo, 44129

<porodisecl@aol.com>

## Oklahoma

Sigma Beta#, Box 60354, Oklohomo City, 73146

Sooner Diversity(!), PO Box 575, Norman, 73070

## Oregon

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 492B, Portland, 9720B

Trans-Port, PO Box 66913, Portland, 97290

## Pennsylvania

CD International, PO Box 61, Easton, 18044

Erie Sisters, 2115 West 8th St., #261, Erie, 16505

Renoissance, Greoter Philo. Chapter, PO Box 530, Bensalem, 19020 <bensalem@cpn.com>

Renoissance, Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, 17105

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, 15230

Transsexual Support Group, 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, 15206, or call 412-661-7030 <tsg@usoor.net>

UJIMA - Peer counseling and info materials for teenagers. Meets Wed. nights at 6:30 pm at 1207 Chestnut Street, 4th flr., Philadelphia.

## Tennessee

Alpho Pi Omega#, PO Box 784, Brentwood, 37204-0784

Tennessee Vols, PO Box 92335, Nashville, 37209 <<http://www.transgender.org/tg/tvols/index.html>>

Memphis TG Alliance, PO Box 11232, Memphis, 38111-0232

## Texas

Alpho Chi#, PO Box 50266, Amarillo, 79159

Austin Second Image, PO Box 14965, Austin, 78761

Delto Omega#, PO Box 141924, Irving, 75014

Epsilon Tou#, PO Box 945, New Waverly, 77358

GTC, PO Box 90335, Houston, 77090

HCDA (Helping CDs Anon.), 6804 E Hwy 6 S #334, 77083

ICTLEP (TG Low Conference), PO Drower 35477, Houston, 77235-5477 <ictlep@aol.com>

ReCost, PO Box 224001, Dollos, 75222-4001

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (TATs), PO Box 142, Belloire, 77401

Tou Chi#, PO Box 1105, Alief, 77411

## Utah

Alpho Rha#, PO Box 1586, Orem, 84059-1586

## Virginia

Trans-Gender Educ. Assoc., PO Box 16036, Arlington, 22215

Virginia's Secret, PO Box 34631, Richmond, 23234

## Washington

Emerold City, PO Box 3131B, Seotile, 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, 98122-2B43 <ingersol@holycn.com>

## West Virginia

The Volley Girls, PO Box 181, Dunbor, 25064- <brwtvg1@aol.com>

Trans-West Virginio, PO Box 2322, Huntington, 25724

## Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, PO Box 44211, Milwaukee, 53214

## Canada

### Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Loke Bonovisto Dr SE, Colgory, T2J 7C9

Illusions Sociol Club, PO Box 2000, Colgory, T2C 1B4

Illusions Sociol Club II, PO Box 33002, Edmonton, T5P 4V8

### British Columbia

Dream Girls, P.O. Box 535, Komloops, V2C 5L7

Cornbury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1

### Ontario

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2, Voice mail: (416) 812-6879

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4

### Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8

TransPORRS (Post Op Recovery Residence), 2006 Sherbrooke East, Montreal, H2K 1B9

Due to the ever increasing number of listings worldwide, *LadyLike* regrets that this list of resources must be limited to North America. However, a worldwide list of groups is maintained on our website at <<http://www.cdspub.com/wwgrp.html>> and the most up to date list of N. American resources is at <<http://www.cdspub.com/nagrp.html>>.

**For the most complete paper listing of Support, Counseling and Vendor Resources in the transgender community, you need to get the latest *Who's Who & Resource Guide*.**

*Are you a vendor with products for the transgender community? Conside an ad on the Internet or an electronic store. Contact JoAnn Roberts at 610-640-9449, email: <[vndrinfo@cdspub.com](mailto:vndrinfo@cdspub.com)> for details on how to get wired to the WWW.*



# Lydia's Pride

Most "historical moments" go unnoticed when they occur. Such was the case on Sunday, June 23, 1996, when "parade entry #98", a colorfully decorated, flag and balloon festooned float sponsored by Lydia's T.V. Fashions, Inc., of Sherman Oaks, California, was waved across the starting line of the 26th annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade in Los Angeles. Warmly greeted by the estimated 400,000 cheering spectators along the parade route, little attention was drawn to the fact that for the first time in the 26-year history of the parade, a float representing the transgender community had finally made an appearance at the event. By far the largest unit in the parade, the float was over 58-feet long, 17-feet high and carried over 30 femme members of the transgender community representing the entire spectrum of transgenderism; from the occasional weekend crossdresser to the full-time transsexual.

While many female impersonators and drag queens have appeared in each of the past 25 annual Los Angeles parades, the Lydia's T.V. Fashion float marked for the first time an attempt to represent the overall



Transgender Community, and carried enthusiastic volunteers from as far away as Seattle, San Francisco, San Bernardino, upstate New York, Illinois and Arizona.

Featured on the float and seated on a 7-foot tall vibrant pink slipper was "Lady Diane," winner of the "1996 Miss Southern California Gender" pageant held last February during the "Hearts of Gender" celebration in Burbank. At her feet surrounding the slipper were twenty gender-gifted ladies dressed in the bright, primary national colors of as many different nations, representing the role Lydia's T.V. Fashions plays in spreading transgender pride around the world through its international Internet marketing program.

Also on board were the popular female impersonator "showgirls" from the Queen Mary who rocked the huge crowd with their exciting musical entertainment and dynamic physical impressions of Dianna Ross, Liza Minelli, Cindy Lauper and many other showbiz luminaries. Their rousing rendition of "I Will Survive" brought the huge throng to its feet in one continuous wave as the float moved along the parade route.

So individually well done were the makeup, wardrobes and overall feminine presentations of the girls on board that much of the crowd was unaware that the float was staffed with guys!

To the thirty float participants, their debut into this major Los Angeles event was a thrilling experience they will never forget. Any pre-parade jitters or anxieties were quickly dashed by the enthusiastic and warm-hearted reception received from the cheering crowds along the entire 1½ mile parade route.

As one "previously shy" lady said at the end of the parade, "That was great! Let's go around and do it again!" Plans are already under way for next year's float, and all 30 of the riders have already volunteered to repeat.

**Lydia's is located at 13837 Ventura Blvd., Suite 2, Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91423. Call them at 818-995-7195.**



The cast from the world-famous Queen Mary Show Lounge ▲





Lady Diane, Miss SoCalif - On Lydia's float ▲



Rhonda, Nebraska ▲



Cena, New York ▲



Debra (L.) and Christy (L.) unfurl Lydia's banner ▲



Robyn, Tennessee ▲



Kelly, Connecticut ▲



M.M., Illinois ▲



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Nancy Ann, New York ▲



Tammy, Utah ▲



Laurie Ann, our video reviewer ▲



Cynthia, Florida ▲



JoAnn Roberts (L.) & Angela Gardner (r.)



Jeri, Utah ▲



Meredith, Pennsylvania ▲



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# TV VIDEO REVIEWS

Crossdressing at the movies with Laurie Ann



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. *The Crying Game*, *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, *To Wong Foo...*, and *M. Butterfly* are recent releases that have achieved same degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects — crossdressing.

## *The Tenant*

Most of our readers will recall that first time they discovered the fascination of turning one's "boyself" into a "girlself." For many it occurred in their teens. Others discovered their "girlself" as a child. For some the revelation did not occur until they were adults.

Regardless of the age, it was a moment that changed our lives forever. To see oneself in the mirror, either partially or fully "transformed," was a thrilling experience. At that moment we were "hooked" for life.

But, there was a dark side to this discovery. For many it was an uneasiness. We knew we had entered a realm that was difficult to understand. Most of us knew our parents and friends were going to disapprove. Putting on girl's clothing was not considered to be an all around basic male activity. So we learned rather quickly to keep our interest secret.

For others there was guilt, anxiety, confusion and depression. Often such reactions drove them into mass denial and hypermasculine behavior. It was as if being a "real man," according to society, would end the need to "dress."

For a few there was tragedy. They chose drinking and/or drugs to escape the desire to dress. And some choose the ultimate way to exorcise their girlself — suicide. Many of



Polanski as Trelkovsky renting the room.

us have known someone who has chosen that tragic end.

The 1976 film *The Tenant* depicts such a tragedy. It was directed by the brilliant Roman Polanski whose credits include *Chinatown*, *Rosemary's Baby* and *Tess*. Polanski had just finished *Chinatown* and his next film was to be *Pirates* with Jack Nicholson. Due to a scheduling problem Nicholson had to drop out. Financing the film became difficult and *Pirates* was put on hold. In its place Polanski was to make a film from Roland Topors' novel *The Tenant*.

*The Tenant* was filmed in Paris and despite the fact that it was "low budget" it featured a well known cast: Shelly





Trelkovsky having taken on the persona of Simone.

Winters, Melvin Douglas, Jo Van Fleet and Isabelle Adjani. Polanski played the lead role, Trelkovsky, a young man in his twenties, and a budding crossdresser.

*The Tenant* was said to be the male version of *Repulsion*, a 1965 film directed by Polanski, his first film in English. *Repulsion* was Catherine Deneuve's first film and was a study of a young girl's descent into madness as a result of sexual conflicts. The film received excellent reviews and established Polanski as a major film director.

*The Tenant* begins with Trelkovsky seeking an apartment. He is a passive, shy, compliant, inept man. People take advantage of him and he is basically very naive. He asks the concierge, played by an obese Shelly Winters, about an apartment. She shows it to him but explains that it is not yet available. The present tenant, a young girl named Simone Choule, is in the hospital and is expected to die. Laughing, the concierge tells Trelkovsky that Simone attempted suicide by jumping out the window, crashing through a solarium to land in a courtyard three stories below. Trelkovsky arranges with the landlord, Melvin Douglas, to rent the apartment if Simone dies.

Feeling linked in some way to Simone, Trelkovsky visits her in the hospital. She's totally wrapped in gauze and plaster. Only an eye and her mouth are visible. Stella (Isabelle Adjani), Simone's girlfriend, appears and she asks, "Simone, why did you do it?" Simone utters a horrifying shriek and a close up of her mouth reveals a missing front tooth. Later Stella tells Trelkovsky, "I'm sure Simone was looking at you when she screamed."

Simone dies, and the apartment becomes Trelkovsky's. He soon discovers Simone's wardrobe and makeup. At first he is tempted to dispose of it. But he hesitates and carefully returns the clothing to the armoire. The stage is set for his first attempts at crossdressing.

The apartment and building soon turn into oppressive and confining spaces. Any noise that he makes, however minor, results in complaints from the other tenants. The neighbors and store owners nearby are beginning to confuse him with Simone. He is served her breakfast and given her brand of cigarettes at a local coffee house, despite his complaints. The concierge gives him Simone's mail.

One evening Trelkovsky revisits Simone's wardrobe and makeup kit. The nail polish fascinates him. Soon he is painting his nails. The next day he buys a wig and high heels. Then comes the complete transformation.

That night he has a fitful sleep. Waking, he finds blood on his mouth and hands. His front tooth is missing.

Anxious and confused, he becomes even more paranoid. He now believes people in the courtyard are making fun of him. A pre-teen girl, whom neighbors have insisted is a boy being dressed up by his mother, is being torment in the courtyard. A mask of Trelkovsky is placed on her. She/he points her finger accusingly at his apartment.

He tells Stella, who really cares and wants to be intimate with him, he's convinced there is a plot to turn him into a girl. She wants to help him, but Trelkovsky becomes convinced she's part of the plot.

Finally, he dresses one more time. Looking out of his window he sees the courtyard has turned into a theater. The residents are the audience, formally dressed and jeering at him as they urge him to jump. Climbing out the window he says, "I'll show you" and jumps. Suddenly there is no audience. Lights are turned on, the landlord and concierge, along with other neighbors, come out to see what the noise is about. Trelkovsky drags himself away from their help. Bleeding and broken he pulls himself up the stairs. As he does a neighbor (Jo Van Fleet) utters, "Look at him, dressed like that. It's disgusting."

Once again Trelkovsky appears on the ledge. The horrified audience now includes the police and they are pleading for him to stop. Again he jumps, crashing to the ground. In the next scene we are back in the same hospital room we were in at the film's beginning. This time it's Trelkovsky encased in gauze and plaster and at the bedside is his double. We have returned to the film's beginning. It was all a dream. Again Stella appears and asks "Why?" As before, there is the close-up of the mouth and the missing tooth. There is the horrifying scream, this time louder and siren like. It's saying, "If you destroy me, your feminine side, you destroy us both."

continued on next page



And so, Trelkovsky is Simone, as identified by the missing tooth. Outside is Trelkovsky's male side, looking in. Inside — looking out — wrapped in plaster and gauze, hidden away, is his female side. It's the ultimate closet. The apartment building represents society which says, shut up, fit in, conform and be a good boy.

Is it the end? Is the dream going to be Trelkovsky's destiny? Or will he learn from the dream and begin to understand his complimentary female side? After all, his girlself can't be as bungling and inept as his male self. We don't have the answer, but we are left with some hope. Perhaps he'll run across a copy of *LadyLike* and eventually find his way into a support group.

You're probably wondering how Polanski looks in drag. As the brilliant illusionist Charles Pierce quips when he is in character as Norma Desmond, "Mr. DeMille, I'm ready for my close-up... but *not that close!*" We shouldn't judge Polanski's efforts too harshly. After all, how many of us want to brag about our first attempts to liberate our girlself?

It is interesting to note that Polanski admitted that he identified with Trelkovsky's plight. Was the role simply a

metaphor for his own sense of being an "outsider" or because he was sympathetic to what a crossdresser feels? Or, possibly both? We do know Polanski had more than just a casual interest in crossdressing. He made a cameo appearance in drag in the 1959 film *When Angels Fall*. Donald Pleasance gets partially dressed in drag in the 1966 Polanski directed film *Cul De Sac*.

*The Tenant* is a complex, obtuse, but fascinating film. The acting is superb. I recommend it to all of our readers interested in crossdressing in film. You can most likely find *The Tenant* at well stocked video rental stores.

Next time — picture this: You live full time as a woman. You wear beautiful female clothing, your hair is long, always styled, and you are always beautifully made up. You're admired by both males and females alike for you are the greatest male actress of your time. And, beautiful women are in love with you. A fantasy? It's all true in the 1963 Japanese film *Ykinojo's Revenge*. Don't miss it.

Thanks to all readers who have commented on these reviews. If you have comments or suggestions please feel free to write to me care of *LadyLike*.



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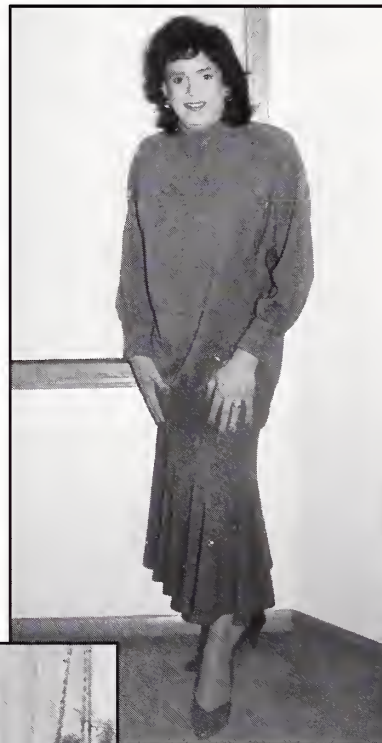
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Illinois



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Jayne, Oregon ▲



Michelle, Pennsylvania ▲





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# FLACK BACK PUDGY ROBERTS

Bob Davis &  
Carol Kleinmaier

A professional impersonator since the late 1950's, Pudgy worked at the famous Jewel Box Lounge in Kansas City and the 82 Club in Greenwich Village, NY. He was the first female impersonator to be a featured act in burlesque. Pudgy is the author of the first "how-to" book on theatrical drag, *Female Impersonator's Handbook* (1967), which inspired Virginia Prince to write her book on passing for transvestites, *How to be a Woman though Male* (1971), both of which inspired JoAnn Roberts (our publisher and no relation) to write her book *Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing* (1985).

Pudgy has numerous other credits — more than we can fit in this interview. But, perhaps most interesting to *LadyLike* readers might be Pudgy's youth. When so many of our interviews end with crossdressers wishing they'd started sooner or come to terms with their femininity earlier, Pudgy started at age seven, knew what he wanted, and turned it into a theatrical career. Bob Davis interviewed Pudgy at home in San Diego, California for *LadyLike*.

**Your given name is George Roberts and you are 61 years old. You're fairly thin, especially in the "olden" days, so how did you get the name Pudgy?**

My mother gave me the name as a nickname because I was quite heavy as a child. I lost the weight as I grew. When I started performing I weighed 110 pounds with an 18" waist. I used Pudgy all the time. I felt it was unique name and it fit, since I was too. I only use my real name for legal purposes.

**When did you start crossdressing?**

I started dressing in my mother's and sister's clothes at age seven. I considered it normal to dress up. I was young, feminine and felt that was the way I was supposed to be. My mother caught me one time hanging out the bedroom window. We lived right across from the tracks in Chicopee Falls, Mass., and there were men working on the tracks. I would dress in drag, look out the window, smile at the guys and they would smile back, thinking I was a real girl. So, even at that age I knew I was interested in men and the appearance of men and all that.

**When did you first perform in drag?**

When I was about 10 years old I organized a show in a nearby cellar. I talked several of my friends into



being in it. Somebody would do magic; somebody would do dancing or whatever, pantomime to a record even. I took my mother's clothes and sang to the record player, rather than pantomime. So, I was a theatrical player at that early age.

Actually, this was my first experience in public, too, since I dressed at home. I was brazen enough to walk down the street in drag with gowns trailing in back of me and not be bothered by people's comments. Even now I can remember vividly what the comments were, but I wasn't frightened by it. "You're gonna get in trouble when you get home." "I'm gonna tell your mother that you were out in a dress." And I'd say, "She knows already." She didn't, I don't believe. But, it was something I had wanted to do and I was stubborn, even at that age.

**When did you start to consider yourself gay?**

When I was seven years old. Although my family suspected I was gay, when I was twelve I wrote my mother a letter telling her. She never mentioned it. When I asked about two weeks later if she had received my letter, she said she had, but it was all right, as she already knew and tolerated it. My father never did, so I had a very withdrawn childhood. I guess my parents felt it was something I would grow out of, but even then I was aware of what I was and what I really wanted.

**I read that you started performing professionally in the Army. Is this true?**

I enlisted in the Army in 1955 and was stationed at Ft. Dix, New Jersey in the 69th Division. I had absolutely no theatrical background or training, but I was in 10 Service Club shows and won them all.



I was very frightened at the first show, but I knew the material really well. At the time Eartha Kitt was very popular and had several hits on the radio. I was fascinated by her because she sang in five languages and had an unusual voice. But, I did a good impression of her. I sang her songs with a live band they had at the show as I made love to the microphone. I was just in my army uniform, no drag at all.

I tried getting onto the Bob Hope show, the show he did on army bases. I was going to do impressions and comedy in male clothes. But, I told them I could do it in drag, too. They said, "No, it wouldn't fit in with the real girls there as well. And it would be too gay and you're too gay." So I never got the job.

**When you got out of the service did you keep performing?**

I would mc shows at gay bars or friends' birthday parties. Not in drag. I would do clowning. I was a professional clown from an early age. My favorite line was when I'd charge into, say, a birthday party in this huge costume, big ruffles, big hairdo and all these funny things, beep my horn and say "Hi, Kids! Where's the food?!" (laughs) It made me laugh, because, if I had a full stomach, I could go on with anything.

Johnny (my lover of 41 years) and I moved from Massachusetts to California. There was a little show in San Francisco at the Barrel House Lounge on the Embarcadero. It was a Black review show called Robby Landers. I did singing, stand-up comedy, some drag and stuff. I really wasn't that professional at the time. I did a couple other little shows there in clubs and whatever. Then we heard talk of an opening for a comic stripper at the Jewel Box Lounge in Kansas City.

When we got there I said, "Well, I can do stripping. Regular stripping." John Trisilo, the manager of the Jewel Box, told us that if I could do comedy I could have the job. "If you're good, we'll keep you. But, if you're not, you'll only work here for two weeks." Johnny helped me as did the other kids in the show. I invented a lot of gimmicks so my act was equally visual and verbal. I was there for 6 months. Actually, Johnny is responsible for my entire career. He once asked me what I wanted to be and I told him, "a stripper in burlesque" and that's exactly what I became.

**I know that you then left Kansas City and worked at the 82 Club in New York and had your own show at the Crazy Horse Cafe in Greenwich Village, but let's talk about your dream of being "a stripper in burlesque."**

When I left the Crazy Horse, there was a burlesque show in Brooklyn called Giddons Million Dollar Midway. All the acts were in tents. There was a burlesque tent and they had all the girls appear outside of the Midway so people would buy a ticket to see them on the inside. Many impersonators did burlesque in vaudeville, but none had ever been featured in burlesque itself. Not even in burlesque's earlier years. I tried to get in as a female



**Pudgy & Salvador Dali ▲**

impersonator or stripper, but the agents couldn't get me a job. Johnny, my lover, got me in, selling me off as a comic since I had my comic strip, which was a take-off on burlesque.

Giddons Million Dollar Midway worked several places in New York state and after I had been there for awhile someone said to the owner, "Did you see the impersonator in the burlesque tent?" And he said, "That's no impersonator, that's an entertainer." This was the status I craved because, I was an entertainer. I wasn't just a drag queen putting on a dress for the first time with no act. So they wanted to give me my own tent for six months. I was scared to run six months all across the country with a show like that in my own tent. It was a big responsibility, so I said, "Noooo," but that was such a compliment. I never in my whole life will forget that.

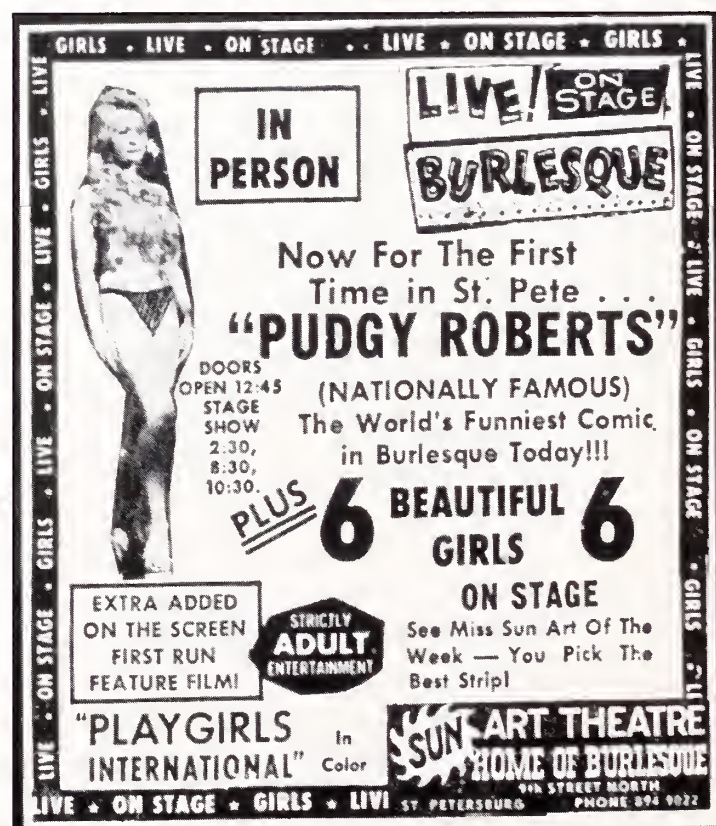
I worked in burlesque for 20 years, but it was on its last legs and got so it was almost porno. I appeared in most of the main cities across the US. I met Gypsy Rose Lee, who gave me a beautiful rhinestone pin, and many other famous stars.

*continued page 40*



Johnny, again. In preparing my act I had learned so much that I wanted to share the information. I really wanted to help others

No, that was it. Here I had real editorial control, at least more than before. I created a publication which presented female impersonators as show business professionals. It wasn't success-





ful. There was an English publication with a similar editorial policy. But, even they gave in. (Pudgy is probably referring to "The Drag Queens" (Gold Star Publications, Whyteleafe, Surrey, UK) which had three issues in 1972.)

**I know there's much more we could discuss from your colorful past, but do you have any plans for the future? Publications or Performance?**

Yes, a great deal. I have a collection of jokes, cartoons, poems, limericks and humorous definitions called The Complete Comic Encyclopedia of Crossdressing that I am trying to find a publisher for and I have just started to work on my autobiography. I'm also planning to start a personal contact magazine called Crossdressing Personals.

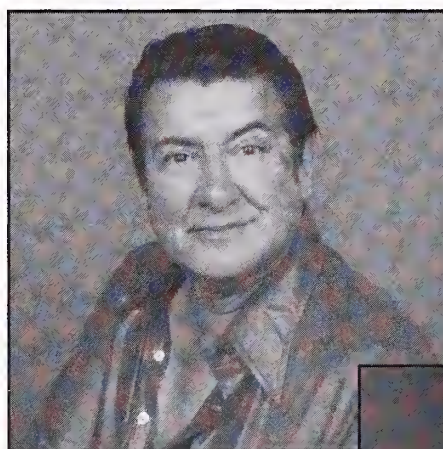
I am working on an extravagant stage show for 1997 called "When Queens Collide." It highlights me doing about 60 impressions (I do over 80 all together) with a large cast of singers and dancers. Think of any spectacular show you've ever seen, it'll be as good or better. I want smoke machines, bubble machines, the rain effect, every gimmick I can possibly come up with. As a matter of fact I just contacted a fiber optic company about the backdrop of color changing fireworks for Barbara Streisand doing "Happy Days are Here Again." It opens with Bette Davis as the virgin queen and closes with Queen Elizabeth in a coronation outfit. I'll be doing three male queens in it: Tiny Tim, Liberace and Michael Jackson. And it has a king, Elvis, of course. I don't think they'll be any other impersonators in the show because I want talent and they don't have talent, unless they're older. The young ones are too flighty and hard to work with. If somebody's gay, fine, but its not too important since I'm going for a straight audience.

**As someone whose spent his whole life promoting crossdressing, do you have any thoughts on the current state of crossdressing?**

Crossdressers, female impersonators, its all the same thing because its like "united we stand, divided we fall." The gays have always used drag to promote themselves. A gay club having a drag show is legitimate. Every comedian, I guess, has done drag and now it's even more popular. But, the thing is, they're saturating the market and so it will dry-up. Next year will be a very weak one for drag.



Pudgy and his famous bust illusion ▲



Pudgy today ▲

Pudgy & partner Johnny ▼







Debbie, Texas ▲

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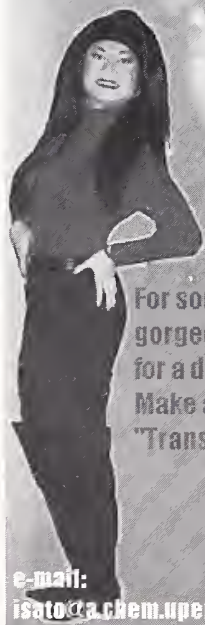
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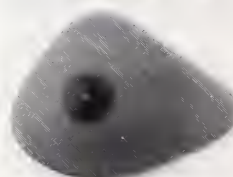
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# On My Mind...



And now for something completely different... a guest editorial by one of our readers.

Dear JoAnn,  
I just finished reading my latest issue of *Lady Like* from cover to cover. As always I was

slightly disappointed that there wasn't more when I finished. Already I'm looking forward to the next issue. I really like your publication.

What I'm writing about though is the apparent lack of political activism of some of your readers. I read their stories about their experiences in getting out for the first time and going shopping and other positive experiences they have had, and how exhilarating it is to finally enjoy the freedom of releasing their inner woman without seeming to acknowledge that it hasn't always been that way. I am still extremely cautious about going out because of some of the bad experiences I have had in my past. I have been dressing up since I was in my early teens back in the late sixties and seventies. It has not been all that long ago that people of our ilk were routinely roused, degraded, and denigrated by the long arm of the law. Shopping in general was relegated to catalogues and a very few stores that specialized in catering to the sexually adventurous. We were in general considered a pariah to the community [at large] and not tolerated at all. It is primarily because of the political activism of those in the gay community that we enjoy the freedom that we now have to shop or go almost anywhere without hassle. They are the ones who became visible enough to force the general acceptance of our lifestyle by the general public.

I am a conservative individual like I believe most of your readers are. Therefore, I find the Liberal agenda to be mostly not in line with my beliefs about personal responsibility and the interpretation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but it is mostly the Liberals who support our rights as transvestites to go and wear what we want when we want.

There is a movement from what is termed the funda-

mentalist Christian organizations to take away our status as persons. This movement to force everyone to accept their religious beliefs as to the acceptability of our behavior is well-organized and well-funded. We must remember that while we may have the God-given right to wear what we want, when we want, where we want, God does not make or enforce the laws in this country. The laws and enforcement are made and supported by our elected political officials. We must let our elected officials know we are as large or a larger supporting group than those who would force us back into the closet or else we will be crammed back into the dark.

The freedom we enjoy to live our lives as we see fit is not a gift or a given. We have no choice. We are going to have to fight for the freedom we enjoy in the political arena. I still can't wake up in the morning, put on a dress and go into my office to work, even though some mornings I would dearly like to. That freedom may not be won in my life time, but to be forced back into the closet would be like dying. I do not wish to turn your magazine into another political forum, but I do think it behooves you to remind your readers of who we are, how far we've come and how far we have yet to go.

Melanie Okubo, Calif.



Dear Melanie,

Thanks for your letter. I've often wondered how the Conservatives among our community felt about the transgender rights movement. What I find of interest is the apparent conflict between the traditional Conservative, minimize government, take personal responsibility position and the recognition of the need for government to take a hand in securing rights for everyone, usually a Liberal position. It is deep philosophical conflicts such as these that raise our consciousness to higher levels.

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**JoAnn Roberts**



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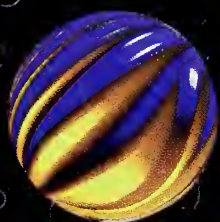
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